



PAID FOR BY JOHN KERRY FOR PRESIDENT, INC.

**John Kerry**  
 PRESIDENT

▶ HELP PUT HIM ON THE BUS

# The Salt Lake Tribune

[Comment](#)
[WORLD](#) | [UTAH](#) | [BUSINESS](#) | [SPORTS](#) | [OPINION](#) | [ARTS](#) | [LIFESTYLE](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#)
**SUNDAY**  
 April 18, 2004

[Email This](#) | [Print This](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#)

Quick Search



## Commentary

 Columnists  
 Commentary  
 Public Forum  
 Utah Politics  
 Online Poll  
 Bagley Gallery

 How to submit a  
 public forum letter:

## Mail:

 Public Forum  
 Salt Lake Tribune  
 P.O.Box 867  
 Salt Lake City,  
 Utah 84111

## E-mail:

**letters@sltrib.com**  
 (NO attachments)

**Fax:** 801-257-8950

 Click for guidelines,  
 tips and how to  
 submit editorials...

## News

 Contents  
 Past Editions  
 Weather  
 Utah Politics  
 Obituaries  
 Archives  
 Today's Page 1

## Sports

 Jazz  
 Grizzlies  
 BYU Cougars  
 Utah Utes  
 Preps

## Features

 Film Finder  
 Arts  
 Travel  
 Food  
 Outdoors  
 Health & Science  
 Faith

## Shopping

 Classifieds  
 Retail Ads Online  
 Special Sections  
 Cars/RVs  
 Real Estate

## Alternative energy industry a potential bonanza for West

**By Sarah Wright**


Sarah Wright

While Western governors were in Albuquerque this past week debating the energy future of the West, a few miles away you could see the future in Ft. Sumner, where electricity is generated from the wind while cows graze under the giant wind turbines scattered across the landscape.

On the edge of a remote mesa east of Albuquerque, 136 wind turbines have injected new life into this small ranching community, where local residents struggled for years through drought and financial hard times, dogged by constant worry of losing their herds and maybe even their lands. But with the completion of the New Mexico Wind Energy Center last fall, the ranchers can see a way forward.

"This has been a wonderful shot in the arm for the community," says Renee Carter, whose cattle ranch hosts six of the center's wind turbines. "The droughts have really hurt, and this has given us a viable option to keep our homes and ranches."

Why should people in Utah care about New Mexico? Because as the West begins its next energy boom -- a clean energy boom -- each state will be competing for the jobs and rural economic development that come with clean, renewable energy.

All signs suggest that, as New Mexico, Colorado and even Wyoming rush to capitalize on wind power and other renewables, Utah is falling behind. New Mexico just enacted a strong renewable energy standard that will stimulate the state's clean energy industry. New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson made no bones about the fact that the race was on, telling Western governors, "New Mexico wants to be the clean energy capital of the world."

While Richardson is leading the clean energy pack in the Interior West, other states in the region are catching on. Colorado is on the verge of passing a statewide renewable energy standard that also would attract new energy industries and good paying jobs and help reduce air pollution throughout the state.

Nevada has a law on the books that requires 15 percent

**Advertisement**
**MarketPlace**  
**TOP JOBS**

## Jobs

**Operator**  
 Construction Company

## ACCOUNTING

**Supervisor**  
 Griffin Albers

**Scheduling Coordi**  
 Datamark

**Parts**  
 Pro Shop Help

**Driver**  
 Hendrickson Trucking

**Teacher**  
 Rowland Hall-St.Marks  
 Middle School

**Education**  
 UVSC

**Delivery Driver**  
 Ogden Area

**Restaurant**  
 Garden Cafe at the  
 Grand America

Jobs  
Education Guide  
Utah Bride Guide  
Utah City Guide  
Grocery Guru  
Fantasy Sports  
Advertising Info  
Bus./Industry

**Extras**

Not In Print  
Online Poll  
N.I.E.  
Mobile Editions  
Reader Panel  
Crossword

**Services**

Help Desk  
FAQ  
Search  
Subscribe  
Contact Us  
Privacy Policy

**Earn your degree!**



There's a future in the field of Criminal Justice. Earn your degree today.

**Degree programs include:**

**Bachelors Degrees**  
[B.S. in Business/Admin](#)  
[B.S. in Business/Mgmt](#)  
[B.S. in Business/Mktg](#)  
[B.S. in Criminal Justice](#)  
[B.S. in Health Care](#)  
[B.S. in Information Tech](#)  
[B.S. in Nursing](#)

**Masters Degrees**  
[M.A. in Education](#)  
[M.A. in Organization Mgmt](#)  
[M.A. in Business Admin](#)

Programs vary by campus

[Click Here](#)

of its electricity to be generated by renewable resources such as wind, biomass and solar. Even Wyoming is building wind farms, despite the fact that, with all its natural gas, oil and coal, the Cowboy State doesn't need to boost its energy economy.

As Wyoming demonstrates, you don't have to give up fossil fuels in order to develop renewable resources. In fact, our energy future will be a

balanced mix of traditional energy sources and renewables such as the wind turbines at Ft. Sumner. We don't have to increase our dependence on fossil fuels -- 94 percent of the power generated in Utah comes from coal -- when we have such huge, untapped renewable resources in wind and sun.

But the largest untapped clean energy resource in Utah is energy efficiency. Opponents of improving energy efficiency like to describe it as "shivering in the dark." But the reality is that efficiency is something you build, just like a power plant -- only a lot cheaper -- and completely clean. Think of efficiency as money left lying on the ground: All we have to do is pick it up.

Utah Power is so convinced of the benefits of improving energy efficiency, the electrical utility decided to spend approximately \$20 million a year on energy efficiency improvements. "Customers love it," says Carol Hunter, a Utah Power executive, referring to one of their residential energy efficiency programs. "It's great for the environment."

But Utah and the region have only just begun to tap the savings.

The Southwest Energy Efficiency Project, a regional think tank, has found that adopting energy efficiency standards in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Nevada and Wyoming would eliminate the need to build 34 new coal-fired power plants in the West (there are currently 35 proposed), while saving consumers and businesses \$28 billion between today and 2020.

As Richardson noted in his speech Wednesday night, the West will lead the nation and even the world in creating the clean energy future. When it comes to clean energy, Utah has been slow out of the gate, but it's not too late to catch up. State leaders need to step up and establish policies to promote clean energy. Ranchers, farmers and everyone in Utah deserve no less.

-----

Sarah Wright is executive director of the Utah Clean Energy Alliance, an organization committed to a sustainable energy future through renewable energy sources and energy efficiency technologies.

[Who are your ancestors?](#)

**Get Started:**

1. [U.S. Federal Census](#)
2. [Social Security Death Index](#)
3. [Military Records](#)
4. [Newspaper Archives](#)

[www.ancestry.com](#)  
[search site](#)

**Quick Find:**

Enter your last name:

[Click Here](#)

[www.ancestry.com](#)  
[search site](#)



[Email This](#) | [Print This](#) | [Previous](#) | [Next](#)

© Copyright 2004, The Salt Lake Tribune.

All material found on Utah Online is copyrighted The Salt Lake Tribune and associated news services. No material may be reproduced or reused without explicit permission from The Salt Lake Tribune.

**Google Sponsored Links**

**Utah Wedding Videos**

Utah Wedding Videographer Professional Quality, Amateur Price

[www.pinnacleweddings.com](http://www.pinnacleweddings.com)

**LDS Internet Service**

Family Friendly Internet Service For LDS Members, \$12.95 mo.

[www.LDSisp.com](http://www.LDSisp.com)

[Front Page](#) | [Contents](#) | [Search](#) | [World/Nation](#) | [Utah](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Editorials](#) | [Public Forum Letters](#) |  
[Commentary](#) | [Lifestyle](#) | [Movies](#) | [Travel](#) | [Science](#) | [Religion](#) | [Archives](#) | [Weather](#) | [Obituaries](#)

[Mobile Editions](#) | [Columnists](#) | [Online Poll](#) | [Utah Politics](#) | [2002 Olympics](#) |  
[Contact Us](#) | [FAQ](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Print Subscriptions](#) | [Reader Panel](#) | [Newspapers In Education](#)

[webmaster@sltrib.com](mailto:webmaster@sltrib.com)